REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 have been cancelled.

Applicants have added new claims 21 to 33.

New claims 21 to 33 require that the claimed catalyst or catalyst precursor is an elongated shaped particle comprising three to six protrusions. Two protrusions extend from, and are attached to, a central position. To these protrusions, one to four additional protrusions are attached.

The additional protrusions are not attached to the central position. As indicated in the patent application as filed, at page 7, lines 15-19, the invention does not relate to catalyst or catalyst precursors of which a cross-section shows a central circle which has three or more protrusions. Thus, trilobe and quadrulobe shaped catalysts and catalyst precursors are excluded.

One example of a cross-section of a catalyst or catalyst precursor as claimed is presented in the upper left corner of Figure 2 of the present application; this cross-section shows three protrusions. Another example of a cross-section of a catalyst or catalyst precursor as claimed is presented at the upper right corner of Figure 2 of the present application; this cross-section shows three protrusions. Another example of a cross-section of a catalyst or catalyst precursor as claimed is presented at the left hand side, in the middle, of Figure 2 of the present application; this cross-section shows four protrusions. A further example of a cross-section of a catalyst or catalyst precursor as claimed is presented at the bottom of Figure 2 of the present application; this cross-section shows four protrusions.

Frayer et al (US4,133,777) does not disclose particles having a shape as claimed in new claim 21. Frayer '777 describes catalyst particles which have an elongated shape with alternating longitudinal grooves and protrusions (column 1, lines 12-16). Hence, a cross-section of the particles of Frayer '777 shows protrusions defined by grooves, and these protrusions are arranged around a central part of the cross-section. Particles as defined by Frayer '777 thus do not have additional protrusions as defined in the current invention. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the subject-matter of new claims 21-33 is novel over Frayer '777.

JP 55119445 describes catalysts with columnar bodies with 3 to 6 circles around a central circle (English abstract of JP '445). Figures 1a, 1b, 2 and 3 of JP '445 show cross-sections of bodies in which 3 to 4 circles are attached to or overlap with a central circle (page 228 of the non-translated publication of JP '445). Particles as defined by JP '445 thus do not have additional

protrusions as defined in the current invention. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the subject matter of new claims 21-33 is novel over JP '445.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject-matter of new claims 21-33 would not have been obvious over Frayer '777 or over JP '445.

Should the Examiner find any impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims that could be corrected by a telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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